1		2	3	4
		2006-07	1109	700
		2007-08	1158	780
2.	Karunya	2005-06	1167	937
	University	2006-07	1665	1198
	Coimbatore	2007 -08	1879	1263
3.	Allahabad	2005-06	2413	370
	Agriculture	2006-07	2568	380
	Institute	2007-08	2622	453

Literacy rate among SCs/STs

2814. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the low literacy rate among Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase their literacy rate; and

(d) the details of schemes introduced by Government for imparting education to SCs/STs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) According to 2001 Census the literacy rate of Scheduled Castes was 54.69% and Scheduled Tribes was 47.10% as against the national average of 64.84%. Whereas the increase in the overall literacy rate of the country during 1991-2001 was 12.63%, the increase in the literacy rate of scheduled castes was 17.28% and scheduled tribes was 17.50% during the same period.

(c) and (d) The Universalisation of Elementary Education and eradication of adult illiteracy form the two-pronged strategy for improving the literacy rate of the country. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a comprehensive programme for universalizing quality Elementary Education by 2010. The SSA promotes diverse strategies, specially targeting scheduled caste/scheduled tribes children. The SSA seeks to a develop context specific intervention to tackle the problems of education of SC/ST children. Some of the interventions of SSA are as follows:

- Providing adequate infrastructure for elementary schooling in districts with concentration of SC/ST population.
- Free text books to SC/ST Children from classes 1-VIII.
- Provision af Rs. 15 lakhs to each districts far special innavative activities to promate education of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes children.

Two programmes far education af girls at elementary level-the National Programme for Education at Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) and Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) have also been launched. Under the NPEGEL programme, special facus is given to education af girls from SC/ST community. Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya scheme is specially targeted to provide schools with residential facilities at the elementary level far girls belonging to SC/ST/OBC and minority communities. Out af 2180 KGBVs sanctioned so far, 242 have been sanctioned in SC dominant blocks and 457 have been sanctioned in ST dominant blocks. 16750 SC girls have been enralled in 1039 KGBVs, operatianal so far, which is 27% af the total enrolment 30% af girls in KGBV schools are tribal girls.

NCERT operates the National Talent Search Scheme for pursuing courses in science and social science up to doctoral level and in professional courses like medicine and engineering up to second degree level subject to fulfillment of the conditions out of 1000 scholarships, 150 are reserved for SCs and 75 are reserved for STs. The National Institute of Open Schooling gives the SC/ST students concessian in admissian fees to the extent of Rs.200/- for bridge courses, Rs.250/- for secondary courses and Rs.300/- for senior secondary courses.

The Natianal Literacy Mission aims to impart functional literacy to adult illiterates in the 15-35 age group. The main programme under the NLM include Total Literacy Campaign to impart basic literacy to the non literates followed by Post Literacy Programme for reinforcement of literacy skills to the neo-literates and thereafter Continuing Education Programme for providing opportunities for life-long educational oppartunities. So far, the literacy programme have covered 597 districts in the country. Though under the literacy programme all sections of the community irrespective of caste, creed and gender are covered, the main focus, however, is an scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, females, minorities and other disadvantaged groups of people. It is estimated that 23% and 12% of the beneficiaries of literacy programme belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively. To facilitate teaching in the spoken language af the tribals, primers in 48 tribal dialects have been prepared. Further the funding for the tribal districts is in the ratio of 4:1 to be shared between Central and State governrnents as against 2:1 far general districts.

Setting up of National Institutes

2815. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are finalizing a plan to set up 24 National Institutes all over the country, to cover rural areas through quality higher education;

(b) whether any such institute would be set up in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what steps would be taken to give a boost to higher education in this manner in the public sector; and

(e) the steps proposed to improve quality of higher education in Tamil Nadu?